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To: MLPAComments
Subject: MLPA Issues

My name is Santino Bernazzani and I represent the Monterey Bay Tritons Dive club. We are 26 avid sportsmen that spend a great deal of time and money diving the Northern California Coastline.

After a short club survey we found that, our club spends in excess of \$35,000 a year with the local economies, in rental/camping fees, food, gas, entertainment etc., while participating in sport diving in Northern California.

Most of us dive in excess of 4 days a month using our catch as sustenance for our families.

As i'm sure you are aware there are two MPA proposals that include a large portion of Salt Point State Park (from Gerstle Cove to Black Point) as a state marine reserve. If this marine reserve was to go into effect our sport diving would be seriously impacted as well as the money we spend with the local economies. Salt Point State Park is one of the few safe places to access the ocean anywhere along our Northern coast line, with the next safe access in Fort Bragg.

Salt point state park is an excellent area for sport diving for the following reasons:

- 1.) The land on this stretch of coast line is owned by the state parks system it and allows for multiple public access points.
- 2.) There are 2 areas to launch kayaks in this stretch of coastline. In addition to kayaks small boats can be launched at Gerstle Cove.
- 3.) We generally have strong northern winds in the afternoon on our coastline. Therefore it is important for safety reasons to head north in the morning so we can return safely to our launch point once the afternoon winds and wind waves build. If the 7 miles north of Gerstle Cove are made into an SMR then the Gerstle Cove launch point will be useless for kayakers and small boat operators since we would be forced to head south to fish which would be very dangerous.
- 4.) The unique shape of Fisk Mill Cove provides protection from a northwest swell. Therefore Fisk Mill Cove is often the safest place to dive on the Sonoma coast. Last year there were nine dive related fatalities in our area. This sport does not need to become more dangerous by limiting our safe diving locations.

As a sport diver I strongly support draft proposal 2 (jd). This proposal would hardly impact sport divers on the Sonoma coast while still providing the level of environmental protection that the MLPA has promised. Draft proposal 3 (tc) would not be ideal for sport divers, however it is not nearly as bad as draft proposal 1 (ec) and Draft Proposal 4 (JC). I am firmly against draft proposal 1 (ec) and Draft Proposal 4 (JC). IF either of these proposals were to pass they would drastically impact the sport diving community.

Thank you for your time,

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